

DEER HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Deer Herd Unit #26
(Kaiparowits)
April 2006

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Kane and Garfield counties - Boundary begins at the Paria River and the Utah-Arizona state line; north along the Paria River to SR-12; east on SR-12 to the Burr Trail at Boulder; southeast on the Burr Trail to Lake Powell; southwest along the shore of Lake Powell to the Utah-Arizona state line; west along this state line to the Paria River.

LAND OWNERSHIP

RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP

	Year-long range		Summer Range		Winter Range	
Ownership	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%	Area (acres)	%
Forest Service	23185	52 %	0	0%	801	0%
Bureau of Land Management	18765	42 %	119564	94 %	559081	93 %
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands	640	1%	0	0%	34120	1 %
Native American Trust Lands	0	??	0	0%	0	0%
Private	2150	5 %	556	1%	22523	4%
Department of Defense	0	??	0	0%	0	0%
USFWS Refuge	0	??	0	0%	0	0%
National Parks	0	??	0	0%	5614	1 %
Utah State Parks	0	??	0	0%	2187	0%
National Recreation Area	0	??	6447	5 %	7013	1 %
TOTAL	44738	??	126567	100%	600638	100%

UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage for a population of healthy animals capable of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and viewing. Balance deer herd impacts with human needs, such as private property rights, agricultural crops and local economies. Maintain the population at a level that is within the long term capability of the available habitat to support.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Target Winter Herd Size - Achieve a target population size of 1,000 wintering deer (modeled number). This population objective remains for both the short-term (5-year life of this plan) and long term, barring significant changes in range conditions.
- This unit has scattered areas of deer habitat and does not support high numbers of deer.

	Objective from past plan (2001)	Long-term Objective	2006-2011 Objective	Change
Kaiparowits	1,000	1,000	1,000	0

- Herd Composition – Maintain a region wide three-year average post-season buck to doe ratio ranging from 15 to 20 bucks per 100 does.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**Monitoring**

- Population Size - Herd composition and population size will be monitored through use of post-season and spring classification, hunter check stations, hunter harvest surveys and computer modeling.
- Buck Age Structure - Monitor age class structure of the buck population through the use of checking stations, post-season classification, uniform harvest surveys and field bag checks.
- Harvest - The primary means of monitoring harvest will be through the statewide uniform harvest survey. Achieve the target population size by use of antlerless harvest using a variety of harvest methods and seasons. The winter population should result in an expected annual buck harvest of 140 when normal conditions occur, but recognize that buck harvest will be above or below what is expected due to climatic and productivity variables. Buck harvest strategies will be developed through the RAC and Wildlife Board process to achieve management objectives for buck:doe ratios.

Limiting Factors (May prevent achieving management objectives)

- Crop Depredation - Take all steps necessary to minimize depredation as prescribed by state law and DWR policy.
- Habitat - Extensive dry desert conditions exist. Limited data suggest annual fawn recruitment is low. Forb production is low, especially on dry years. Large areas of Pinyon/Juniper trees are not productive. Water distribution is limited in some areas. Excessive habitat utilization will be addressed. This unit is almost entirely within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (Monument), Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, and the Dixie National Forest (Canaan Mountain). Extensive federal Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) exist in this unit. Questions involving future management of habitat within the Monument or the WSAs are yet to be determined.
- Predation - Refer to DWR predator management policy.

- Assess need for control by species, geographic area and season of year.
 - Seek assistance from USDA/Wildlife Services when deer populations are depressed and where there is a reasonable chance of gaining some relief through a predator control effort. Concentrate USDA/Wildlife Services control efforts during and immediately prior to the fawning period.
 - Recommend cougar harvest to benefit deer while maintaining the cougar as a valued resource in its own right.
 - Predation by mountain lions and coyotes is significant factor to population growth. Rugged topography makes normal harvest of predators difficult in most areas of unit. Incentives for increasing mountain lion harvest may be helpful. The area is currently a harvest objective cougar unit.
- Highway Mortality - Deer/car collisions are low on this unit. A few kills are recorded on SR-12 each year.
- Illegal Harvest - Specific preventive measures will be implemented through Action Plans developed in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Section should illegal kill become an identified and significant source of mortality.
- Interspecific competition - No limitation generated by elk/deer interactions has been documented.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Work with private and federal agencies to maintain and protect critical and existing winter range from future losses.
- **No range transects are monitored on the Kaiparowits unit. Thus, no DCI table is available.**

HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Continue to monitor the permanent range trend studies located throughout the seasonal ranges.
- Increase water for wildlife by re-modeling BLM livestock catchments to include year long water availability.
- Several areas within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument need manipulation (fire, chaining, hand cut, etc.) to return vegetation to diversity and production.

Duration of Plan

This unit management plan was approved by the Wildlife Board on _____ and will be in effect for five years from that date, or until amended.